

**SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR QUEUE-RESPONSIBLE NODE
DESIGNATION AND QUEUE-HANDLING IN AN IP NETWORK**

ABSTRACT

The methods and systems disclose the designation of a master node from a plurality of network nodes (24, 26, 28) based on node IP addresses, (32, 34, 36) maintaining a master queue (70) at the master node (26), designating slave nodes (24, 28), and providing copies of the master queue (70) as backups (72, 74). The invention allows for flexibility in the addition and removal of nodes or groups of nodes to and from a network without interruption of the queuing capabilities of the network.